positive raw stock, the Government have recently referred the matter to BICP (Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices) with a view to working out the optimum price to be charged by M/s. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, a public sector undertaking.

Extension of liberalisation process

5697. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Engineering Industry has made recently some suggestions to the Government to extend the liberalisation process to some more areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The Confederation of Engineering Industry in a Press Release on 10th August, 1991, have welcomed the new economic policies, presented agenda for further liberalisation and deregulation. The different suggestions are as follows:-

In regard to Trade Policy, CEI recommended Dollar Accounts for major exporters; issue of advance licences within 15 days; 40% EXIM Scrip rate for PMP companies; Single point processing of IPRS; freedom to set up companies in Europe, Japan and USA; Deemed Export status for the Service Sector; and a national plan for Marketing India and building its international image.

Under industrial Policy, it proposed that Indian Companies should also be permitted 51% equity; Reduction of Industrial Licensing to 2- 3% of Industry; a new Industrial Relations Policy; Abolition of price and distribution controls.

For the public sector, it suggested 50% Equity holding with Government and 50% with the general public; Privatisation to be started gradually with Service Industries and other select trend-setting companies; Abolition of price and purchase preference and "no monopolies'.

In regard to Fiscal and Monetary policy, it suggested that growth be sustained through support to Investment by restoring the earlier rate of Depreciation Allowance; reduction in Customs duties on raw materials and massive simplification of the tax system by adopting only 3 rates of Indirect Taxes the lowest for raw materials, and intermediate rate for components and highest rate for finished goods.

The CEI suggestions on the SSI Policy liberalisation included further hike in excise limits from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 75 lakhs and Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 1.5 crore; simplification of the procedures or bank guarantees; freedom for SSI to go to more than one bank; and, full review of statutes and regulations covering SSI.

Further, some more recommendations have been made in regard to Competition Policy, Financial Sector, Capital Market and a new Development Bank.

(c) The Government has taken different policy measures in regard to Trade, Industry and Fiscal sectors recently and the effects of these measure on the industrial sector are being closely observed. Further, changes in policy measures would depend on the results of policy measures already initiated.

Efforts in Research and Development

5698. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been urging upon various industries to pay more attention to Research and Development for improving technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to take some measures of its own in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, R&D in industry by industry is of recent origin in India ans has been increasing gradually. Currently it is about 20% of the total R&D expenditure in the country. It is also relatively small compared to the turnover of the industry. Government has been urging the industries to enhance their role in the area and increase their commitment to R&D.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Government has been encouraging the promotion and development of technologies in private sector through their own research and development skills.

The schemes initiated by the Government include: According recognition to the in-house Research and Development units in Industry; Presentation of awards of industrial R&D units on their outstanding achievements; Import of equipments and raw materials including pilot plant for research and development, under Open General Licence; Income Tax concessions on expenditure incurred on scientific research and investments made on scientific equipments and capital assets; enhanced accelerated depreciation on the plant and machinery installed.

Telecast of T.V. Serial 'Jai Hanuman'

5699. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIARIYAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast a T.V. serial " Jai Hanuman";

(b) the names of the producers of the serial; and

(c) the time by which the above serial is proposed to be telecast?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). Doordarshan has received a T.V. Serial proposal titled "Jai Hanuman" from M/s A.A.A. Films for approval under the new sponsorship scheme. Doordarshan has initiated the examination of the proposals received under the scheme. The question of telecast will arise only if the proposal in approved.

Cold Storages in Karnataka

5700. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold storages in Karnataka;

(b) whether the number of cold storages in the State is very few; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the cold storage facilities in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) There are 76 licensed cold storages in Karnataka.